



United States
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Plant and Animal Systems

Smith-Lever Base Funding

Southern Regional Integrated Pest Management Programs Fight Termite Threat

Termites (Isoptera) eat wood and wood-based (cellulose) materials. Their role in nature is to recycle wood. This job is important as a natural part of the environment, but termites become destructive pests when they try to recycle houses or living trees.

There are about 2,500 species of termites worldwide. Although only about 2 percent of them are frequent invaders of wood structures used by humans, termites must be managed because they can and will cause great damage. The Louisiana State University

publication *A Guide for Integrated Pest Management of Termites* details management strategies for types of termites found in Louisiana. Topics include identifying termites and termite castes, understanding the threat from termites, treating for termites, and maintaining and inspecting your home to eliminate conditions that may be conducive to termites.

The publication also provides useful information on construction and renovation to help a homeowner prevent termite damage. Useful advice is given for prospective home buyers so that they will have the information they need to make a sound decision when looking for a new home.

The publication is available online from the LSU AgCenter at: <http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/termites/termitebook.htm>. The AgCenter site provides links to other information on termite



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**A FORMOSAN SUBTERRANEAN
TERMITE SOLDIER.**

Useful advice is given for prospective home buyers so that they will have the information they need to make a sound decision when looking for a new home.

management, both at LSU and elsewhere. Hard copies of the publication are available through Louisiana Parish Extension offices. Louisiana residents may obtain up to five publications (or five copies of a single publication) at no charge.

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LIVE TREES ARE ATTACKED AS WELL AS BUILDINGS. THE FORMOSAN SUBTERRANEAN TERMITE IS KNOWN TO INFEST MORE THAN 50 SPECIES OF LIVE PLANTS.



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